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Schedule**
1st-10th of each month
Cedar Springs No. 1,
Adolphus VFD,
East Allen VFD
11th-20th of each month
Halifax VFD,
Stony Point VFD
New Bethel Church
(Bunkum)
21st-30th of each month
Meador VFD,
Trammel VFD,
South Allen VFD

When the date to move
the recycle trailers falls on
the weekend or a holiday,
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Outreach Thrift Store

SALLY SAYS
**Got my coat and hat on and
going to Mission House to
get me a bag of clothes for
\$4.00!**
"Y'all come on over!"



Outreach to the Needy Ministries
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UK launches Forage Testing Program to Support Kentucky Livestock Farmers

Move allows KDA
to expand forage
marketing services

The University of
Kentucky Division
of Regulatory
Services (UKDRS), in
collaboration with the
Kentucky Department
of Agriculture (KDA)
and the Cooperative
Extension Service,
has officially launched
its Forage Testing
Program to help
Kentucky producers
improve livestock
nutrition, reduce feed
costs, and promote
sustainable agriculture.

With support from the
Kentucky Agricultural
Development Fund,
trial testing began
in September
2025, and the
program is now fully
operational, offering
comprehensive
nutritional analysis of
forages.

Ray Smith, Extension
forage specialist in the
Department of Plant
and Soil Sciences at UK
Martin-Gatton College
of Agriculture, Food
and Environment,
said he is pleased that
UKDRS is now offering
this high-quality forage
testing.

"This will be a
tremendous benefit
to livestock and hay
producers in the state,"
Smith said. "Having
this testing at the
same location as UK
Soil Testing offers a
user-friendly format
and quick turnaround.
It also facilitates
county Extension
agents working with
specialists to explain
the results to their
clients."

**The Benefits of
Forage Testing**
According to Smith,
forage makes up
more than 80 percent

of most ruminant
and equine diets,
yet many horse
owners and livestock
producers feed hay
or ensiled forages
without knowing their
nutritional value.

To know how to best
use hay to meet a
horse's nutrient needs,
UK associate professor
and equine nutrition
specialist Bob Coleman
says horse owners
need a forage analysis.
"Feeding hay is just
part of owning horses,"
Coleman said. "Having
the analysis tells a lot
about the hay, allowing
horse owners to make
better use of the hay
and their feed budget.
It is exciting to have
this service available at
UK."

Experts also agree
that most cattlemen
wouldn't buy a bag
of feed labeled only
"Cattle Feed" without
nutrient guarantees.

"Forage testing
provides the
foundational
information to build
a cost-effective
supplement strategy
to meet the nutritional
needs of beef cattle and
ensure performance
goals are met," said
Jeff Lehmkuhler,
Extension professor
of beef cattle
nutrition. "Without
this information,
we are using book
values, which may
lead to overspending
on unnecessary
supplements or lost
production due to
nutritional
deficiencies."

For producers
who sell their hay,
forage testing allows
producers to assess
market value, monitor
quality changes and
make informed sales

decisions. It also
supports participation
in the KDA's hay
grading program.

Standard Analysis And Cost

The UKDRS Forage
Testing Program
uses Near Infrared
Spectroscopy (NIR) —
a technique that uses
near-infrared light to
analyze the chemical
and physical properties
— to analyze samples
for moisture and dry
matter, crude protein,
fiber, sugars, starches,
minerals, energy values
and digestibility.
The standard test
is \$22 per sample;
silage and haylage
samples are tested for
pH at no additional
charge. Optional wet-
chemistry mineral
analyses are available
for an extra fee.

Once testing is
complete, a process
that averages three
business days,
producers can work
with their local
Extension agents to
interpret the results
and balance rations
for ruminants or
equines. Reports are
reviewed for accuracy,
and retesting is free if
requested within seven
days of the report date.

Changes to KDA Forage Program

By transitioning forage
testing to UK, KDA will
retire its forage testing
program and expand
its forage marketing
services by adding hay
grading and a monthly
USDA hay market
report.

"It made sense for
producers that KDA
transitioned the state's
forage testing program
to the University of
Kentucky Regulatory
Services," Agriculture
Commissioner
Jonathan Shell said.

"Farmers who are
already utilizing the
soil lab through their
local extension agent
can now add a follow-
up forage analysis and
consultation through
UK Cooperative
Extension, resulting
in a more complete
soil and forage
improvement plan."

Producers who test
their hay for marketing
purposes through a
certified lab, such as
UKDRS, can submit
results to KDA.
That lot will then
be assigned a USDA
hay quality grade
and included, free of
charge, on the KDA
"Hay for Sale" website.

Untested hay may also
be listed on the Hay for
Sale site, but it will not
show a quality grade
and will not have an
analysis to verify the
quality. Submitting the
analysis to KDA is as
simple as checking the
box on the UK Sample
Submission Form to
email results to "KDA
for Marketing."

Another new
addition to the KDA
hay program is the
monthly hay market
report, a collaboration
among producers, KDA
staff and USDA. KDA
will gather Kentucky
hay sales data monthly
and submit it to the
USDA for publication
of the market report.
Anyone interested in
participating in the
monthly hay market
report by providing
their sales data can
contact KDA's hay
program coordinator
Kimberly Field at
Kimberly.Field@
ky.gov.

Submitting Samples
Jenny Combs,
agriculture research
specialist and

administrator of
the Forage Testing
Program, said proper
sampling is critical.

"Producers or agents
should collect a
representative core
sample and clearly
label the samples and
services requested
on the sample form,"
Combs said.

Combs also
recommends that
producers and
Extension agents
complete the free one-
hour hay-sampling
course offered by
the National Forage
Testing Association
(NFTA) at [https://
www.foragetesting.org](https://www.foragetesting.org).

Once samples are
collected and labeled,
Combs said they
should be delivered
or shipped via UPS or
FedEx during regular
lab hours: Monday
through Friday, 8 a.m.
to 4 p.m. ET. Haylage
should not be shipped
on Fridays due to the
risk of mold.

Samples should be

shipped to:

Regulatory Services
Attn: Forage Testing
Program
103 Regulatory
Services Building
Lexington, Ky. 40546-
0275

Craig Wood, assistant
director for agriculture,
natural resources
and horticulture
with UK Extension,
said the Forage
Testing Program is a
valuable resource for
Kentucky's agricultural
community.

"By providing accurate,
science-based forage
analysis, it empowers
producers to make
smarter decisions,
improve animal
health and enhance
profitability," Wood
said.

For more information
on the UKDRS Forage
Testing Program, visit
[https://www.rs.uky.
edu/ForageTesting](https://www.rs.uky.edu/ForageTesting) or
contact the program at
UKDRSforage@uky.
edu or (859) 218-2449.

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